2531. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the order of the Debt Recovery Tribunal in the petition filed by Central Bank against Patriot Management for recovery of Rs. 21 crores has resulted in workers of Patriot and Link not getting salaries since may, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whehter there is a conspiracy between the Central Bank of India and Patriot Management as alleged by the Union to deprive the workers of their salaries;

(d) whether Patriot Management proposes to go in for mass retrenchment of workers; and

(e) what steps, Government proposed to take to undo the damage done by Central Bank's action?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Central Bank of India has reported that it had filed a case against United India Periodicals (P) ltd. (UIPPL) before Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT), New Delhi on 21st May, 1996 for recovery of dues to the Bank. The DRT is yet to pronounce its final order in the ease. However, the DRT had passed an interim order restraining the company from receiving lease/rental money from the tenantsdessees in the building under mortgage with Central Bank of India with the direction that the same may be paid to the Bank.

(c) Central Bank of India has denied that there is any such thing like conspiracy as alleged by the workers' Union of UIPPL.

(d) UIPPL is a private sector company. Ministry of Finance is not aware of any such proposal.

(e) The matter is at present sub judice. In any case,-under Section 20(1) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, any person aggrieved by an order made, or deemed to have been made, by a DRT can prefer an appeal to an Appellate Tribunal having jurisdiction in the matter

विदेशियों द्वारा मादक द्रव्यों और औषधियों की तस्करी

2532. **प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले पांच वर्षों के दौरान मादक द्रव्यों और औषधियों की तस्करी में कितने विदेशी पकड़े गए हैं;

(ख) उनमें से कितने लोगों को सजा हुई और उनकी सजा की अवधि कितने वर्ष की थी; और

(ग) क्या सरकार कुछ अन्य देशों की तरह भारत में मादक द्रव्यों की तस्करी के अपराध के लिए मृत्यु दण्ड का प्रावधान करने का विचार रखती है?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री पी॰ चिदम्बरम): (क) उपलब्ध सूचना के आधार पर वर्ष 1992 तथा 1996 (नवंबर) के बीच गिरफ्तार किए गए 65,681 व्यक्तियों में से 669 विदेशी थे।

(ख) सरकार ने विदेशी सिद्ध दोषियों की सूचना अलग से नहीं रखी है। तथापि उपर्युक्त अवधि के दौरान 8020 व्यक्ति सिद्ध दोष पाए गए।

(ग) वर्ष 1989 में संशोधित एन॰डी॰पी॰एस॰ अधिनियम में अपराधों के पुनः करने के विभिन्न मामलों में पहले से ही अनिवार्य मृत्यु दंड का प्रावधान है।

Setback to Video-Cassette Marketing by NFDC

2533. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA; DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the video cassette marketing by NFDC has suffered;'

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?